

321 CMR: DIVISION OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE.

321 CMR 3.00: HUNTING.

3.02: HUNTING, PARTICULAR GAME.

(10) Hunting of Hares and Rabbits. In accordance with the authority vested in me by M.G.L. c. 131, § 5, as most recently amended by St. 1967, c. 802, I hereby declare annual open seasons for the hunting of cottontail rabbits, snowshoe hares, and black-tailed jackrabbits, subject to the following:

(a) Definitions: For the purposes of 321 CMR 3.02(10), the following words or phrases shall have the following meanings:

Shotgun Deer Season means that season when it is lawful to hunt deer with a shotgun as provided for in 321 CMR 3.02(4)(b)3.

Zone or Zones means the Massachusetts wildlife management zones as described in 321 CMR 3.02(4)(o).

(b) Open Seasons and Zones.

1. ~~there shall be an open season on~~ Cottontail rabbits may be hunted in Zones 01 through 12 ~~all counties of the Commonwealth except Dukes and Nantucket Counties~~ from the first Saturday after Columbus Day to the following last day of February, and

2. ~~an open season on cottontail rabbits in Dukes and Nantucket Counties~~ in Zones 13 and 14 from November 15 to the following last day of February. ~~all dates inclusive;~~

3. ~~on~~ Blacktailed jackrabbits ~~may be hunted only in Zone 14 Nantucket County only~~ from November 15 to the following December 31. ~~both dates inclusive;~~

4. ~~and on~~ Snowshoe (varying) hares, ~~as follows:~~ may be hunted in Zones 01 through 04N and 04S from the first Saturday after Columbus Day to the following last day of February ~~in all counties or portions of counties west of the west bank of the Connecticut River; and,~~

5. ~~in Zones 05 through 12~~ from the first Saturday after Columbus Day to the following February 5 ~~in all counties or portions of counties east of the west bank of the Connecticut River; and,~~

6. ~~in Zones 13 and 14 except Dukes and Nantucket Counties where the open season will be from November 15 to the following February 5. all dates inclusive, subject to the following:~~

(c) Season Closure. Notwithstanding the provisions of 321 CMR 3.02(10)(b), there shall be no open season for the hunting or possession of cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, or black-tailed jack-rabbit during the shotgun deer season.

(d) Falconry. Licensed falconers holding a valid hunting or sporting license and hunting with or by means of a falcon or other raptor may hunt:

1. Cottontail rabbits in Zones 01 through 12 from the first Saturday after Columbus Day to the following March 15, and

2. in Zones 13 and 14 from November 15 to the following March 15, and may hunt

3. Snowshoe (varying) hare in Zones 01 through 12 from the first Saturday after Columbus Day to the following March 15, and

4. in Zones 13 and 14 from November 15 to the following March 15; provided, that said falconers shall abide by all other applicable provisions of M.G.L. c. 131 and 321 CMR while pursuing cottontail rabbits and snowshoe hare.

(e) Hunting Hours. The hunting hours on each calendar day of the open season shall begin at + hour before sunrise, ~~except as provided in 321 CMR 3.01(1)(n).~~

(f) Bag Limits. A person shall not kill or take more than the following bag limits:

1. five cottontail rabbits in one day, nor possess at any time more than 10;

2. one black-tailed jackrabbit in one day, nor possess at any time more than two;

3. two snowshoe hares in one day, nor possess at any time more than four.

~~(c) A person shall not hunt or have in his possession while hunting the carcass of a hare, rabbit, or jackrabbit during that season when deer may be legally taken by means of a shotgun.~~

~~—(d) Notwithstanding the foregoing, licensed falconers holding a valid hunting or sporting license and hunting with or by means of a falcon or other raptor may hunt cottontail rabbits in all counties of the Commonwealth except Dukes and Nantucket counties from the first Saturday after Columbus Day to the following March 15 and in Dukes and Nantucket counties from November 15 to the following March 15; and may hunt snowshoe (varying) hare in all counties of the Commonwealth except Dukes and Nantucket counties from the first Saturday after Columbus Day to the following March 15, and in Dukes and Nantucket counties from November 15 to the following March 15; provided, that said falconers shall abide by all other seasons, bag limits, hunting hours, and rules and regulations of the Division while pursuing cottontail rabbits and snowshoe hare.~~

Regulatory Authority: M.G.L. c. 131, § 5.